



EUROPEAN UNION

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## **Statement by the High Representative Catherine Ashton on the increasing use of the death penalty in Iran.**

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

*“I am deeply concerned by the increasing number of executions in Iran. According to data now compiled from many sources, the rate of executions in Iran during the first half of 2011 make it the world’s leading user of the death penalty per inhabitant. This alarming development clearly contravenes the worldwide trend towards the abolition of the death penalty, as exemplified by the increasing support to the UN General Assembly Resolutions calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.*

*The EU holds a strong and principled position against the death penalty. The EU therefore calls on Iran, as it does on all states insisting on maintaining the death penalty, to halt pending executions and to instate a moratorium on the death penalty.”*

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**P R E S S**

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 299 97 80 - [Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu)  
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - [Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu)  
[COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu](mailto:COMM-SPP-HRVP-ASHTON@ec.europa.eu)  
[www.eeas.europa.eu](http://www.eeas.europa.eu)

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